

Message Text

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TAGS: UN, SENV, ESCAP

SUBJECT: UN WATER CONFERENCE: ESCAP REGIONAL PREPARATORY
MEETING, JULY 27-AUGUST 2

REF: STATE 178629

FOLLOWING CONSTITUTES SUMMARY OF U.S. PREPARATIONS FOR UN
WATER CONFERENCE, WHICH USDEL MAY DRAW ON FOR STATEMENT
UNDER AGENDA ITEM 4 OF PREPARTORY MEETING. IN SUCH
STATEMENT USDEL SHOULD NOTE THAT PRINCIPAL FORUM FOR
REVIEW OF U.S. PREPARATORY EFFORTS WILL BE THE WATER
PROBLEMS COMMITTEE OF THE UN ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR
EUROPE (ECE), MEETING IN GENEVA SEPTEMBER 27-OCTOBER 1.

1. THE U.S. HAS INDICATED BOTH WITHIN THE UN COMMITTEE ON
NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL THAT
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IT INTENDS TO PARTICIPATE FULLY IN THE WATER CONFERENCE

AND THE VARIOUS PREPARATORY ACTIVITIES, AND WILL WORK TO ENSURE THE SUCCESS OF THE CONFERENCE. ON MAY 6, 1976, AT THE FOURTH MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE UN CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT IN NAIROBI, KENYA, THE SECRETARY OF STATE DECLARED THAT "WE WILL PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE AT THE UNITED NATIONS WATER CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN MARCH OF NEXT YEAR, PUTTING FORWARD PRACTICAL MEASURES TO SHARE OUR KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE." THE SECRETARY'S STATEMENT WAS PRESENTED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF A DISCUSSION OF THE U.S. ROLE IN TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY TO THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

2. A SPECIAL CONFERENCE PREPARATORY TASK FORCE HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED UNDER THE WATER RESOURCES COUNCIL (AN INTER-AGENCY GOVERNMENTAL BODY ON WHICH VARIOUS BRANCHES OF USG WITH AN INTEREST IN WATER--SUCH AS INTERIOR, EPA, USGS, ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, AID, RIVER BASIN COMMISSIONS, ETC.-- ARE REPRESENTED). THUS, THE WATER RESOURCES COUNCIL, FUNCTIONING AS A COORDINATING BODY, IS ASSISTING THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE IN PREPARATIONS FOR THE CONFERENCE. UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE COUNCIL SPECIAL WORKING GROUPS ARE BEING ESTABLISHED TO EXAMINE, COST-OUT, AND RECOMMEND U.S. PROPOSALS TO THE CONFERENCE. CONGRESSIONAL STAFF AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS ARE ALSO PARTICIPATING IN THE PREPARATORY TASK FORCE.

3. INTEREST IN DOMESTIC WATER (I.E. SAFE DRINKING WATER) HAS HEIGHTENED AS THE RESULT OF THE VANCOUVER HABITAT CONFERENCE, WHICH APPROVED SEVERAL RESOLUTIONS ON WATER AND REFERRED THEM TO THE WATER CONFERENCE. AS A CONSEQUENCE, WE HAVE ENCOURAGED THE UN WATER CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT TO GIVE GREATER EMPHASIS TO THIS AREA IN THE GUIDELINES THEY ARE PROVIDING FOR THE FORTHCOMING REGIONAL MEETINGS; AND WE ARE PREPARED TO PARTICIPATE ON AN AD HOC INTERNATIONAL TASK FORCE WHICH THE SECRETARIAT MAY ESTABLISH TO CONSIDER THE RESOLUTIONS EMERGING FROM HABITAT. THIS AREA IS ALSO NOW RECEIVING MORE ATTENTION IN OUR OWN PLANNING.

4. THERE FOLLOWS LISTING OF THEMATIC PAPERS NOW IN PRE-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PARATION OR UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR CONFERENCE (LISTING ILLUSTRATIVE ONLY, NOT FINAL LIST OF PAPERS WHICH WILL BE PRESENTED TO CONFERENCE):

A. INTEGRATION OF WATER MANAGEMENT INTO NATIONAL SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS.

B. WATER, FOOD AND FIBER.

C. WATER AND ENERGY.

D. WATER AND TRANSPORTATION.

E. INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY WATER MANAGEMENT.

F. MEETING DOMESTIC WATER REQUIREMENTS OF DEVELOPING NATIONS.

G. PLANNING AND EVALUATION TECHNIQUES SUPPORTING DECISION-MAKING FOR BALANCING CONFLICTING VALUES.

H. INTEGRATION OF WATER QUANTITY AND WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT.

I. RESEARCH AND EDUCATION.

J. DATA COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION TECHNIQUES.

K. MANAGEMENT OF UPLAND WATERSHEDS.

L. WATER MANAGEMENT IN ESTUARIES AND THE COASTAL ZONE.

M. FLOOD PLAIN MANAGEMENT.

N. CONTROL OF WATER POLLUTION FROM TOXIC SUBSTANCES. ROBINSON

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